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(54) PACKAGING OF POTTED PLANTS
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(57) CLAIM

DOI. A sleeve of thin flexible sheet material adapted to be fitted around the pot of a potted plant so as to embrace the pot in such a manner that it is not easily displaced and to extend upwardly around the plant contained in the pot, the sleeve being provided with a tear line, perforations or line of weakness at least around a level that in use corresponds with the top of the pot whereby the upper part of the sleeve can be detached from the part around the pot.



COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

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Complete Specification for the invention entitled:
Improvements in or relating to the packaging of potted plants

The following statement is a full description of this invention including the best method of performing it known to us :-

The present invention relates to the packaging of potted plants, that is to say to plants sold in a growing state in soil contained in a pot or like container.

It has been proposed that such potted plants, prior to leaving the nursery in which they are grown, should be protected by means of a sleeve, usually of transparent sheet material which extends around the potted plant so as to protect the plant against accidental damage during transport. In some cases the pot is made in a tapered configuration and the sleeve is also tapered, its dimensions being such that the sleeve fits tightly around the pot and extends upwardly from it around the plant.

It is intended that when such plants are displayed for sale the sleeve should be removed so that the plant can be seen clearly. It has been found in practice that retailers displaying such potted plants do not remove the sleeve with the result that the plant is displayed unattractively.

The object of the present invention is to provide a sleeve for the purpose described above which is constructed in such a manner that the part surrounding the plant itself can be readily removed from the part surrounding the pot, which latter part can be used as a means for displaying a message, indication of origin or publicity material.

The invention consists in a sleeve of thin flexible sheet material adapted to be fitted around the pot of a potted plant so as to embrace the pot in such a manner that it is not easily displaced and to extend upwardly around the plant contained in the pot, the sleeve being provided with a tear line, perforations or line of weakness at least around a level that in use corresponds with the top of the pot whereby the upper part of the sleeve can be detached from the part around the pot. The sleeve is preferably provided also with one or more longitudinally extending tear lines, lines of perforations or lines of weakness extending from the top of the sleeve to a level corresponding with the top of the pot.

In order that the invention may be better understood and put into practice a preferred form of the invention is hereinafter described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a sleeve according to

the invention and,
Figure 2 is a view in elevation of the sleeve applied to a potted plant.

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The sleeve shown in Figure 1 is made preferably from transparent plastic sheet material such as polythene and is formed preferably by taking two flat sheets of polythene and sealing their longitudinal edges together to form a tapered sleeve as shown in Figure 1. Simultaneously a tear line or line of perforations or weakness 10 is formed around the sleeve at a level corresponding to the level of the top of the pot when in use, as is illustrated in Figure 2. A second similar line 11 is formed so as to extend from the upper edge of the sleeve to the line 10. Ventilation holes 12 may also be provided at the same time. From an economic point of view it is desirable that all of these are formed simultaneously although not essential. In practice it may be found convenient to form a second line diametrically opposed to and parallel to the line 11 by perforating both sheets of plastic material simultaneously.

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The position of the sleeve in relation to the potted plant is shown in Figure 2 from which it will be seen that the sleeve is formed so as to have the same taper as the pot 13 and can thus be made to grip the pot fairly tightly so as to prevent its inadvertent removal.

The lower part of the sleeve below the line 10 can be used to carry printing exemplified by the letters A B C which can be constituted by a trade mark or indication of origin or any other desired material. Similarly a message may be printed on the upper part of the sleeve requesting a retailer to remove the upper part before displaying the plant.

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Prior to display the upper part of the sleeve is removed by tearing along lines 10 and 11 leaving the plant clearly displayed with the lower part of the sleeve still in position around the pot. This can subsequently be easily removed by a purchaser.

The embodiment of the invention described above is given by way of example only as constituting a preferred form of the invention within the general scope thereof as defined above.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:-

1. A sleeve of thin flexible sheet material adapted to be fitted around the pot of a potted plant so as to embrace the pot in such a manner that it is not easily displaced and to extend upwardly around the plant contained in the pot, the sleeve being provided with a tear line, perforations or line of weakness at least around a level that in use corresponds with the top of the pot whereby the upper part of the sleeve can be detached from the part around the pot.
2. A sleeve as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the sleeve is also provided with one or more longitudinally extending tear lines, lines of perforations, or lines of weakness, extending from the top of the sleeve to a level that in use corresponds with the top of the pot.
3. A sleeve as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein ventilation holes are formed in the part of the sleeve above the first mentioned tear line, perforations or line of weakness.
4. A sleeve as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the lower part of the sleeve is printed with a trade mark, message or other material.
5. A sleeve substantially as described with reference to and as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

DATED this 4th day of December, 1978.

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